

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /124 W

----- 037699

R 081522Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1773

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1391

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJ: FORMATION OF NEW GOVT: STATUS REPORT

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

REF: TEL AVIV 1330

1. MRS MEIR WILL PRESENT HER PROPOSED CABINET TO KNESSET
ON MARCH 10 AT 11AM AND SEEK VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FROM IT,
CONCLUDING PROCESS OF OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHING NEW GOVT.
EXPECTED SCENARIO IS THAT MRS MEIR WILL MAKE OPENING SPEECH
SUMARIZING BASIC POLICY OBJECTIVES OF NEW GOVT
AFTER WHICH THERE WILL BE LENGTHLY DEBATE WITH PARTICIPATION
OF ALL PARTIES. WE EXPECT THAT MRS MEIR PROBABLY WILL RECEIVE AT
LEAST 65 VOTES-- FROM LABOR ALIGNMENT, INDEPENDNT LIBERALS
AND 7 OF 10 NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY (NRP) MEMBERS.

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2. NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY REMAINS DEEPLY DIVIDED REGARDING IT PARTICIPATION IN NEW GOVT. STORMY SESSION OF EXECUTIVE ACTION COMMITTEE, DURING WHICH ITS MEMBERS REPORTEDLY ALMOST CAME TO PHYSICAL BLOWS WITH EACH OTHER, ENDED WITH APPROVAL OF NRP PARTICIPATION 93-69-7. YOUTH FACTION HAS ASKED INTERNAL NRP JUDICIAL BODY TO ISSUE TEMPORARY INJUNCTION PREVENTING SENIOR LEADERSHIP FROM ENTERING CABINET ON MARCH 10 IN ABSENCE OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL. WE WERE TOLD THIS MORNING BY YOUTH LEADER BEN-MEIR THAT, IN HIS JUDGMENT, NRP WILL ENTER CABINET MARCH 10 DESPITE INTENSE OPPOSITION OF TWO OF FIVE FACTIONS WITHIN PARTY, AND PROBABLY WOULD EVEN IGNORE ANY POSSIBLE DECISION BY JUDICIAL BODY NOTED ABOVE. BEN-MEIR SAID THAT TWO YOUTH FACTION MKS (HAMMER AND HIMSELF) WILL EITHER ABSTAIN OR VOTE AGAINST GOVT IN VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, AND THAT MINISTER-DESIGNATE WARHAFTIG (LEADER OF OTHER OPPOSED FACTION) WOULD EITHER ABSENT HIMSELF FROM SESSION OR ABSTAIN, AND WOULD NOT ACCEPT CABINET. POST.

3. LABOR ALIGNMENT ALSO HAS TROUBLES OF ITS OWN. JUNIOR PARTNER MAPAM IS NOW DEMANDING THIRD MINISTRY IN VIEW OF INCREASED MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATION OF NRP AND INDEPENDENT LIBERALS. MAPAM HAS THREATENED TO "RECONSIDER" ITS COLLABORATION WITH THE LABOR PARTY IF ADDITIONAL MINISTRY IS NOT FORTHCOMING WITHIN TWO MONTHS. LABOR PARTY'S JERUSALEM BRANCH IS ALSO UP IN ARMS THAT ITS HEAD MOSHE BARAM HAS BEEN PASSED UP FOR CABINET POST AFTER DAYAN'S LAST MINUTE DECISION LED TO RABIN RECEIVING LABOR MINISTRY.

4. DAYAN'S SURPRISE REVERSAL REMAINS AT CENTER OF POLITICAL STAGE, AND DAYAN HIMSELF HAS PROVIDED FURTHER EXPLANATION. IN REPORTED CONVERSATION WITH HIS RAFI COLLEAGUES DAYAN SAID THAT, IN ADDITION TO SECURITY SITUATION, HE HAD TAKEN SOME TIME LATE MARCH 5 TO "THINK THINGS OUT". HE STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN INFLUENCED BY MRS MEIR'S APPARENT REFUSAL BEFORE THE SPECIAL CABINET SESSION MARCH 5 TO CONTINUE AS PRIMIN, THE APPEALS OF HIS LABOR PARTY COLLEAGUES AT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, THAT DAY, AND THE PROSPECTS FOR AN IMPROVEMENT OF INTERNAL RELATIONS WITHIN LABOR PARTY.

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5. HAARETZ CORRESPONDENT MARCUS MARCH 8 SPECULATED THAT DAYAN'S DECISION ALSO MAY HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY A) HIS CONCERN TO AVOID A PARTY SPLIT WHICH HE DID NOT WANT, B) THE ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE FOR HIS SUCCESSOR-DESIGNATE RABIN AT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING (TEL AVIV 1317), AND C) DANGER THAT HIS OWN RAFI COLLEAGUES SOONER OR LATER MIGHT JOIN THE GOVT WITHOUT HIM, LEAVING HIM OUT IN THE COLD.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE FORMATION OF NEW GOVT, DOMESTIC
SCENE REMAINS BUFFETTED BY HOST OF DIFFICULTIES. NRP LEADERSHIP'S
DECISION TO SERVE IN GOVT HAS PRODUCED MAJOR CRISIS
WITHIN THAT PARTY. WHILE NO ONE AT THIS JUNCTURE WANTS A SPLIT,
DYNAMIC OF DIVISION HAS ITS OWN MOMENTUM. CIRCUMSTANCES OF
DAYAN'S REVERSAL AND EVEN DRAMA OF MRS MEIR'S
DECISION TO STAY ON HAVE ALREADY GENERATED SPATE OF SKEPTICAL
PRESS COMMENT, AND DOUBTLESS WILL HAVE REVERBERATIONS ON
LABOR PARTY'S INTERNAL SITUATION IN MONTHS AHEAD.
KEATING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, POLITICAL STABILITY, COALITION GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV01391
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740356/aaaacack.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEL AVIV 1330
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORMATION OF NEW GOVT: STATUS REPORT GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
TAGS: PINT, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005